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VII. "Further particulars of the Swedish Arctic Expedition, in a Letter addressed to the President, by Prof. NORDENSKIÖLD." Communicated by the President. Received October 15, 1868.

Kobbe Bay, Sept. 16th, 1868.

SIR,—In my last letter from Stockholm I promised to send you, with the returning naturalists, a detailed relation of the first scientific part of the Swedish Arctic Expedition of 1868; but unfortunately our last coal-ship, with which five of our fellow travellers, with the rich geological, zoological, and botanical collections, made during this season in the arctic regions, return to Tromsö, and which gives us the last occasion of communicating with Europe, leaves this harbour *in some hours*, and that makes it impossible for me to keep my promise. However, a detailed report will immediately be sent to you by one of the returning naturalists, Dr. Malmgren, a member also of the expeditions of 1861 and 1864. The remaining part of our expedition will from here go, first, to Seven Island, and then (perhaps one of the first days of October), after having deposited a boat and a depôt of provisions on *Ross Islet*, further northward. The polar sea was in the end of August quite covered with ice north of $81^{\circ} 9'$, the highest latitude hitherto reached by our steamer. But a week later the sea was open to Walden and Table Island, and the 8th of September I could, from one of the highest peaks of Parry Island, discern only traces of ice further *northward*.

I remain, Sir, respectfully yours,

A. I. NORDENSKIÖLD.

VIII. "Notice of an Observation of the Spectrum of a Solar Prominence, by J. N. LOCKYER, Esq., in a Letter to the Secretary." Communicated by Dr. SHARPEY. Received October 21, 1868.

October 20, 1868.

SIR,—I beg to anticipate a more detailed communication by informing you that, after a number of failures, which made the attempt seem hopeless, I have this morning perfectly succeeded in obtaining and observing part of the spectrum of a solar prominence.

As a result I have established the existence of three bright lines in the following positions:—

- I. Absolutely coincident with C.
- II. Nearly coincident with F.
- III. Near D.

The third line (the one near D) is more refrangible than the more refrangible of the two darkest lines by eight or nine degrees of Kirchhoff's